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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
OAKLAND DIVISION

ELASTICSEARCH, INC., a)
Delaware corporation,)
ELASTICSEARCH B.V., a)
Dutch corporation,)
) Case No.
Plaintiffs,) 4:19-cv-05553-YGR
)
vs.)
)
FLORAGUNN GMBH, a German)
corporation,)
)
Defendants.)
)

** HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL **
** UNDER PROTECTIVE ORDER **
** ATTORNEY'S EYES ONLY **

REMOTE VIDEOTAPED DEPOSITION
OF
OWEN ASTRACHAN, Ph.D.
Friday, August 13, 2021
Durham, North Carolina

Reported by: B. Suzanne Hull, CSR No. 13495

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The Videographer: Cyril Suszckiewicz

1 code and index.html code that was referred to in the 13:17:27
2 users.html section of your report? 13:17:33

3 A. I don't recall asking a question about when 13:17:35
4 did you use it, but based on the conversation, it was 13:17:38
5 my understanding that, in fact, yes. This testing 13:17:41
6 framework and third-party testing framework would 13:17:45
7 have been used during that time. I don't believe 13:17:49
8 that I asked that specific question, but that was my 13:17:52
9 understanding. 13:17:55

10 Q. Did you ever ask to speak to Hendrik Saly 13:17:56
11 about the code at issue in this matter? 13:18:01

12 A. I never asked to speak with Hendrik Saly, 13:18:05
13 no. 13:18:08

14 Q. Is it possible that speaking to Mr. Saly 13:18:09
15 would have impacted your opinions in this matter? 13:18:13

16 MR. KWUN: Objection. Calls for 13:18:16
17 speculation. 13:18:16

18 THE WITNESS: I think it is reasonable that 13:18:17
19 had I spoken with Mr. Saly, that could have had an 13:18:21
20 effect on my opinions, but I did not. 13:18:24

21 BY MR. EBERHART: 13:18:27

22 Q. Did you ever ask to speak to 13:18:27
23 Sergii Bondarenko? 13:18:29

24 A. I never asked to speak to Sergii Bondarenko, 13:18:30
25 no. 13:18:33

1 Q. And you never, in fact, spoke to 13:18:34
2 Sergii Bondarenko; correct? 13:18:36
3 A. That's correct. I did not. 13:18:37
4 Q. Is it possible that speaking to 13:18:38
5 Sergii Bondarenko could have impacted your opinions 13:18:40
6 in this matter? 13:18:43
7 A. That's -- that's possible. 13:18:44
8 Q. Did you ever ask to speak to 13:18:50
9 Mikael Gustavsson? 13:18:53
10 A. I did not ask to speak to Mikael Gustavsson, 13:18:57
11 nor did I, in fact, speak to Mikael Gustavsson. 13:19:00
12 Q. Is it possible that speaking to 13:19:03
13 Mikael Gustavsson could have impacted your opinions 13:19:04
14 in this matter? 13:19:07
15 A. That's possible. 13:19:08
16 Q. Have you ever testified as an expert on 13:19:11
17 source code development where you did not have the 13:19:15
18 opportunity to speak to or have counsel depose the 13:19:17
19 developers of the code? 13:19:20
20 A. That is likely for certain the case 13:19:25
21 because -- I mean, I would have to go back and look 13:19:30
22 at all of the cases I have been part of. In the 13:19:33
23 recent cases that I have been a part of, I certainly 13:19:39
24 have not spoken to all of the developers that 13:19:42
25 contributed to the code at issue in those cases. 13:19:44

1 Q. Have you spoken to any of the developers 13:19:47
2 that contributed code in those cases? 13:19:49
3 A. Recently, in -- in cases that I have been 13:19:51
4 part of, I have spoken to what might be termed the 13:19:56
5 lead developer, but there are often other developers 13:20:00
6 other than the lead developer. 13:20:04
7 Q. And here in this matter you were not 13:20:05
8 afforded the opportunity to speak to the lead 13:20:10
9 developer; correct? 13:20:13
10 A. I spoke with Jochen Kressin, and in many 13:20:14
11 ways I believe he is the lead developer of the code 13:20:18
12 in floragunn. And so I did speak with him. 13:20:21
13 Q. In fact, Hendrik Saly is the author of 13:20:24
14 fourteen of the nineteen code segments at issue, 13:20:27
15 isn't he? 13:20:31
16 A. As I understand it, in Exhibit 185 13:20:31
17 Hendrik Saly is identified as an author, yes. That's 13:20:34
18 correct. 13:20:37
19 Q. But it is still your testimony that 13:20:38
20 Mr. Kressin is the lead developer of Search Guard; is 13:20:39
21 that correct? 13:20:46
22 A. To -- to be clear, the lead developer is 13:20:47
23 often a managerial position, and I believe 13:20:50
24 Mr. Kressin has that role. In the cases to which 13:20:56
25 I referred -- you know, other cases, one of which is 13:21:00

1 ongoing, the -- the lead developer isn't necessarily 13:21:03
2 the one who has committed the code, but it is the one 13:21:07
3 who has oversight responsibility for the development 13:21:10
4 of that code. 13:21:13

5 Q. You expressed the opinion that when viewed 13:21:16
6 through the eyes of a computer programmer, the total 13:21:19
7 concept and feel of Search Guard is not substantially 13:21:23
8 similar to the total concept and feel of X-Pack; 13:21:27
9 correct? 13:21:33

10 A. I would like to get a -- that -- that sounds 13:21:33
11 like a reference to a specific paragraph in my 13:21:35
12 report. 13:21:38

13 Can you give me that reference to that? 13:21:38

14 Q. One minute, please. 13:21:43

15 A. Yes. That's correct. 13:21:54

16 Q. Which versions of Search Guard did you 13:21:54
17 review to form that opinion? 13:21:57

18 A. The -- I looked at Search Guard as it exists 13:22:01
19 in the context of the accused code base. 13:22:06

20 Q. Which versions of Search Guard did you 13:22:09
21 review to form the opinion expressed in paragraph 13:22:12
22 twenty-two that the total concept and feel of 13:22:18
23 Search Guard is not substantially similar to the 13:22:21
24 total concept and feel of X-Pack? 13:22:25

25 A. I don't -- I can't give you any version 13:22:27

1 conclusion. 13:30:08

2 THE WITNESS: Again, I'm trying to 13:30:12

3 understand the question. 13:30:14

4 Is there a code -- executable code from the 13:30:15

5 floragunn side that has been accused that is not 13:30:21

6 qualitatively important? That is the question? 13:30:25

7 BY MR. EBERHART: 13:30:28

8 Q. That enables a feature that is not 13:30:30

9 qualitatively important to Search Guard. 13:30:32

10 A. I don't believe I expressed an opinion about 13:30:35

11 that in my report, no. 13:30:38

12 Q. So you haven't analyzed as to any of the 13:30:40

13 functioning code whether it enables a feature that is 13:30:44

14 qualitatively important to Search Guard; correct? 13:30:50

15 A. I believe that is a correct restatement of 13:30:55

16 what I said. 13:30:58

17 Q. And at no time have you attempted to assess 13:31:00

18 whether features enabled by the accused code could 13:31:04

19 operate without that code; correct? 13:31:09

20 MR. KWUN: Objection. Vague. 13:31:16

21 THE WITNESS: I have not undertaken an 13:31:18

22 analysis of what features might be enabled or 13:31:22

23 disabled without that code; that is correct. 13:31:27

24 BY MR. EBERHART: 13:31:29

25 Q. And your report does not dispute that 13:31:41

1 Elastic's binaries were widely distributed in the 13:31:43
2 time period in which floragunn allegedly decompiled 13:31:46
3 Elastic's filings; correct? 13:31:55
4 MR. KWUN: Objection. Vague and ambiguous. 13:31:56
5 THE WITNESS: I know that that phrase widely 13:31:58
6 distributed is something that Dr. Walker has in his 13:32:00
7 report. I don't believe in my report I address that. 13:32:03
8 BY MR. EBERHART: 13:32:06
9 Q. And if you didn't address it, you didn't 13:32:07
10 form an opinion on that topic; correct? 13:32:10
11 A. I certainly don't have an opinion in my 13:32:13
12 report about widely distributed. 13:32:16
13 Q. In fact, you were able to download an X-Pack 13:32:18
14 binder that was of interest to you for your report; 13:32:23
15 correct? 13:32:26
16 A. That is correct, I was. 13:32:27
17 Q. And you decompiled that binder; correct? 13:32:29
18 A. I decompiled parts of that binder; that is 13:32:33
19 correct. 13:32:36
20 Q. Did you have any difficulty decompiling that 13:32:36
21 binder? 13:32:39
22 A. No. 13:32:40
23 Using the IDE that I used, I did not have 13:32:42
24 any difficulty decompiling the .class files that 13:32:47
25 I downloaded. 13:32:50

1 Q. Was -- do you have any reason to believe 13:32:51
2 that it would have been difficult for a floragunn 13:32:53
3 developer to decompile the .class files that you 13:32:57
4 decompiled? 13:33:04

5 MR. KWUN: Objection. Lacks foundation. 13:33:06
6 Assumes facts. 13:33:07

7 THE WITNESS: I -- I -- I think that I was 13:33:09
8 able to decompile these files. I think that many 13:33:11
9 reasonable developers would have been able to do the 13:33:17
10 same thing I did. And to the extent that a floragunn 13:33:19
11 developer is a reasonable developer, like anybody, 13:33:22
12 they would have been able to do that. 13:33:24

13 BY MR. EBERHART: 13:33:26

14 Q. Did you ever do -- withdrawn. 13:33:27

15 Did you ever take any steps to determine 13:33:31
16 whether any developers at floragunn possessed any 13:33:34
17 tools for decompilation of JAVA object code? 13:33:39

18 A. I did not talk to any floragunn developers, 13:33:44
19 other than to -- other than Jochen Kressin; so 13:33:49
20 I didn't undertake any steps to see what tools were 13:33:54
21 available to developers. 13:33:57

22 Q. Did you ask Mr. Kressin whether any 13:33:58
23 developers, whether employed by or consultants to 13:34:02
24 floragunn, possessed any tools for decompilation of 13:34:07
25 JAVA object code? 13:34:11

1 A. I did not have to -- ask Mr. Kressin such 13:34:14
2 question. 13:34:17
3 Q. Did you ever ask Mr. Kressin whether he 13:34:18
4 personally at any time possessed tools for 13:34:22
5 decompilation of JAVA object code? 13:34:27
6 A. I did not ask him that question, no. 13:34:29
7 Q. At any time did Mr. Kressin tell you whether 13:34:33
8 he ever had tools for the decompilation of JAVA 13:34:39
9 object code? 13:34:45
10 A. I don't believe he ever stated such a fact 13:34:45
11 in that specific way, no. 13:34:51
12 Q. Did he state such a fact in a different way? 13:34:53
13 A. I don't recall whether he indicated what IDs 13:35:01
14 or development environments he and/or developers 13:35:04
15 used. Many development environments have decompilers 13:35:09
16 built into them, as did mine; so he may have said, 13:35:13
17 oh, yeah. You know, my developers use this. I don't 13:35:17
18 recall that, but it is possible that he stated that. 13:35:19
19 If he had said, for example, we all use IntelliJ, and 13:35:22
20 maybe he said the Community edition, maybe he said 13:35:28
21 the Professional version. I don't recall that at 13:35:31
22 all, but it might have been that he said that, and 13:35:33
23 then I would have assumed that he had a decomp- -- 13:35:35
24 access to a decompiler. But he didn't state that 13:35:37
25 that I can recall. 13:35:40

1 Q. Did Mr. Kressin ever deny -- withdrawn. 13:35:42

2 Did Mr. Kressin ever claim that he had never 13:35:46

3 decompiled Elastic JAVA object code? 13:35:50

4 A. Mr. Kressin never said he had or had not 13:35:55

5 decompiled JAVA code in the conversations I had with 13:36:01

6 him. 13:36:06

7 Q. When did you first obtain a decompiler that 13:36:06

8 could decompile JAVA object code? 13:36:18

9 MR. KWUN: Objection. Calls for 13:36:21

10 speculation. 13:36:22

11 THE WITNESS: I have been using decompilers 13:36:24

12 for, you know, ten or twenty years; so I'm not sure 13:36:29

13 if you are asking -- I did not procure a decompiler 13:36:33

14 as part of the case here. I used the IntelliJ 13:36:37

15 environment that I use in the courses that I teach, 13:36:41

16 and I have had that around for a long time. 13:36:45

17 BY MR. EBERHART: 13:36:47

18 Q. So in your experience, decompilers for JAVA 13:36:48

19 object code have been publicly available for at least 13:36:53

20 the last ten years; correct? 13:36:56

21 A. I think that is a reasonable statement, yes. 13:36:59

22 Q. And are JAVA decompilers -- withdrawn. 13:37:01

23 Are any of the JAVA decompilers that have 13:37:08

24 been available in the last ten years free and open 13:37:13

25 source software? 13:37:17

1 MR. KWUN: Objection. Calls for 13:37:20
2 speculation. 13:37:21
3 THE WITNESS: I cannot tell you the 13:37:22
4 licensing that I used on the decompilers in terms of, 13:37:25
5 you know, free as in beer rather than speech. They 13:37:28
6 are definitely free as in beer. Whether they are 13:37:32
7 free as in speech using an open source or GNU-based 13:37:35
8 license, I don't know that. But I -- that is likely, 13:37:41
9 but I don't know. 13:37:42
10 BY MR. EBERHART: 13:37:43
11 Q. And to translate from computer science open 13:37:43
12 source speak, when you say they are definitely free 13:37:49
13 as in beer, when you mean is that there are 13:37:51
14 decompilers for JAVA object code that can be obtained 13:37:55
15 without payment of money; correct? 13:38:00
16 A. Yes. 13:38:01
17 I will -- let me try to come back out of my 13:38:02
18 little nerdy vernacular and say, yes. There are 13:38:06
19 decompilers that are available without cost to 13:38:09
20 developers. 13:38:12
21 Mr. Leigh is finding that very amusing, as 13:38:16
22 a sidebar. 13:38:21
23 MR. EBERHART: Let's go ahead and mark 13:38:26
24 Exhibit 379. 13:38:36
25 ///

1 STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
) ss.

2 COUNTY OF KERN)
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5 I, B. Suzanne Hull, a Certified Shorthand
6 Reporter in the State of California, holding
7 Certificate Number 13495, do hereby certify that
8 OWEN ASTRACHAN, Ph.D., the witness named in the
9 foregoing deposition, was by me duly sworn; that said
10 deposition, was taken Friday, August 13, 2021, at the
11 time and place set forth on the first page hereof.

12 That upon the taking of the deposition, the
13 words of the witness were written down by me in
14 stenotypy and thereafter transcribed by computer
15 under my supervision; that the foregoing is a true
16 and correct transcript of the testimony given by the
17 witness.

18 Pursuant to Federal Rule 30(e), transcript
19 review was requested.

20 I further certify that I am neither counsel
21 for nor in any way related to any party to said
22 action, nor in any way interested in the result or
23 outcome thereof.

24 ///

25 ///

1 Dated this 26th day of August, 2021, at
2 Bakersfield, California.

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6 B. Suzanne Hull, CSR No. 13495
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